

# The Brazil Young Scientists Strike from ANPG

**International Consortium of Research Staff Associations - ICORSA**

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# August 12, 2025 – A Historic Day of Action

On August 12, 2025, Brazil witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of young scientists that sent shockwaves through the academic and political landscape. This wasn't just another protest – it was a coordinated national strike that brought together nearly 300 young researchers in Brasília, Brazil's political capital, demanding urgent action on the crisis facing scientific research.

The strike represented months of planning and political articulation across multiple universities, uniting doctoral students, postdocs, and early-career researchers in a powerful display of collective action. Their message was clear and urgent: **"Science is a matter of sovereignty, and the path forward is valuing young scientists."**



# Critical Goals: A Blueprint for Scientific Sovereignty

The striking young scientists presented a comprehensive agenda that addresses the systemic challenges threatening Brazil's scientific future. Their demands represent not just individual grievances, but a national emergency requiring immediate legislative and policy intervention.



## National Scientific Emergency Plan

Strengthen Brazil's sovereignty through strategic investment in science infrastructure and research capacity. This includes establishing dedicated funding streams and protection from budget cuts during economic downturns.



## Increase Science & Education Budget

Implement immediate adjustments to scholarship values that reflect current cost of living. Young scientists are struggling financially while contributing to national development through their research.



## Legal Protection & Social Security

Pass comprehensive legislation in the National Congress guaranteeing social security and fundamental labor rights for young scientists, ending their current precarious employment status.



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# Strategic Activities: Multi-Front Political Action

The August 12 strike wasn't a single event but a carefully orchestrated campaign involving multiple strategic activities designed to maximize political impact and media attention. Each activity targeted different power centers within Brazil's political system.



## Political Act at National Congress

Building a parliamentary front to defend science through direct engagement with legislators. This included presenting evidence of the crisis and securing commitments from political leaders across party lines.



## High-Level Ministerial Meetings

Direct negotiations with Ministers of Education, Science, and Economy. Young scientists presented their formal Letter of Demands, outlining specific policy changes and budget allocations needed.



## Public Hearing

Creating a platform for young scientists to share their experiences and challenges directly with policymakers and media, humanizing the statistical crisis facing Brazilian research.



## Street Protest

Mobilizing public support through visible demonstration in Brazil's capital, ensuring media coverage and public awareness of the scientific crisis.



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# Political Action at National Congress

The heart of the political strategy involved direct engagement with Brazil's legislative power. Young scientists demonstrated remarkable organization and professionalism in their approach to congressional leaders, presenting evidence-based arguments for immediate policy intervention.



These images capture the gravity and professionalism of young scientists as they engaged directly with Brazil's political leadership. The congressional meetings represented months of preparation, with detailed policy proposals and economic impact analyses presented to legislators.



# Ministerial Negotiations

The young scientists' delegation secured unprecedented access to Brazil's most powerful ministers, including the Ministers of Science and Education. These weren't ceremonial meetings – they were intensive negotiation sessions where concrete policy changes were discussed and commitments were sought.

## The Letter of Demands

A comprehensive document outlining specific policy changes, budget allocations, and timeline for implementation. The letter represented months of collaborative work across multiple research institutions and student organizations.

### Key elements included:

- Immediate scholarship value adjustments
- Social security coverage expansion
- Long-term research funding guarantees
- Career pathway formalization



# Taking Science to the Streets

The street protest represented the culmination of the young scientists' multi-pronged strategy. By taking their message directly to the public, they transformed what could have been an academic issue into a national conversation about Brazil's future competitiveness and scientific sovereignty.

## Mobilizing Public Opinion

Young scientists effectively communicated complex policy issues to the general public, building broader support for their cause beyond the academic community.

## Media Amplification

The street protest generated significant media coverage, bringing national attention to the precarious situation facing Brazil's next generation of researchers and innovators.

## Unity in Action

The diverse crowd of protesters demonstrated the breadth of support across disciplines, institutions, and geographic regions, showing this is a national crisis requiring national solutions.

*"When young scientists take to the streets, it's not just about scholarships – it's about a nation's commitment to its future."*



# Immediate Victory: Political Leaders Respond

❏ **BREAKTHROUGH ACHIEVEMENT:** The young scientists' coordinated action achieved what many considered impossible – political support for their cause.

The August 12 strike delivered immediate, tangible results that exceeded even the organizers' expectations. In a rare display of multipartisan unity, political leaders from across Brazil's National Congress signed an urgent requirement committing to pass comprehensive social security legislation for young scientists.

This wasn't just a symbolic gesture – it represented a fundamental shift in how Brazil's political establishment views the crisis facing young researchers. The signed commitment includes specific timelines for legislative action and budget allocations, transforming the protesters' demands from advocacy positions into official government priorities.

## The signed requirement addresses:

- Immediate extension of social security benefits to research scholarship recipients
- Establishment of formal employment pathways for postdoctoral researchers
- Creation of a dedicated parliamentary committee to monitor implementation
- Timeline for comprehensive science funding reform



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# What Comes Next:

## The Road Ahead

While the August 12 strike achieved unprecedented political commitments, the real work begins now. Young scientists and their international allies must maintain pressure to ensure promises translate into policy changes and budget allocations.

### Critical next steps include:

- **International Coalition Building:** Expanding the movement beyond Brazil to create global pressure for research investment
- **Legislative Monitoring:** Tracking progress on the signed commitments and holding politicians accountable
- **Public Engagement:** Maintaining media attention and public support for scientific investment
- **Evidence Building:** Documenting the economic and social costs of the current crisis

The success in Brazil demonstrates that organized, strategic action by young scientists can achieve real policy change. This model needs to be replicated globally as research communities face similar challenges worldwide.



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# THANK YOU!

The Brazil Young Scientists Strike represents more than a national victory – it's a blueprint for global action. When researchers unite with clear demands, strategic planning, and unwavering commitment, they can move mountains... and governments.



## Learn More & Get Involved

Visit [www.anpg.org.br](http://www.anpg.org.br) to support the ongoing campaign and connect with the international research community.

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